

Orphan Sunday is November 10, 2019

November is National Adoption Month

"On **Orphan Sunday**, Christians stand for children who've lost the protection and care of family. We are a people called to defend the fatherless...to protect the vulnerable...to visit **orphans** in their distress. Each Orphan Sunday event is locally-led by a Church." (<https://cafo.org>)

What role will your Church play in finding homes for foster children?

Over 600 Palm Beach County youth have been removed from their parents this year already. Children are being **placed in shelters** and **siblings** are being **separated**. They need our help! We need your assistance in reaching caring people who may be willing to share their home if only they know of the urgent need for foster families.

- Could you host an Orphan Sunday event where foster care representatives give a short presentation and greeters are available with info in the entryway?
- Could you hand out bookmarks to pray for a child?
- Could you include the need for foster parents, volunteer child advocates, mentors, and forever families as part of your weekly announcements, bulletins, or via social media?
- Follow us and share: facebook.com/FosterPalmBeach or IG @FosterPalmBeach

Easy to share infographics/resources available at:
<https://www.pbcunites.org/faith-based-advocacy.html>

We recognize that we were all once orphans of sin that God saved through the love of His precious Son, Jesus Christ, and so we seek to mirror this love in tangible ways:

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

—James 1:27 (NIV)



Have a Home?
Have a Heart?
Change a Life!!

#Foster Palm Beach



A program of Speak Up For Kids of PBC

www.FosterPalmBeach.org 561-223-9646



ONE Child Campaign

ONE Child. That's all it takes.

You have seen a lot of big numbers about children in foster care and orphanages.

While these numbers seem large, this is a very solvable problem.

There are five times as many Christian churches in the world as waiting children!

Our dream is simple.

Will your ONE CHURCH choose just ONE CHILD, and pray for that child until they are in a safe and permanent family?



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Our goal is to have more waiting families than kids who need a home!

I asked a teen in a foster shelter, *"What kind of foster parent would you like?"*

"Someone like my uncle," he says. With a little prodding, he explains that his uncle is a *family man* and that he and his wife are involved with their kid's lives.

"Someone I can have a relationship with, look up to, talk to, and trust to be there for me," he continued.

"What I really want is the family I never had."

It's that simple. Kids want families.

And when you're a foster kid, then having a family, even for a little while, makes all the difference in your world.

We need homes for kids. **It's easy to start or enhance your ministry for orphaned children.**
Will you help by sharing the enclosed materials?

I will help you with a step-by-step process working with a congregation member you designate.



You can make an immediate impact sharing an e-flyer in your bulletins, and on your website. Visit www.pbcunites.org/faith-based-advocacy.html for links.

Have you considered fostering or advocating for a child?

Diana Reese [#FosterPalmBeach](#)

Palm Beach County Centralized Foster Home Recruiter

A program of Speak Up For Kids of Palm Beach County

561-223-9646; cell 772-285-7446

PO Box 1896, West Palm Beach, FL 33402 • 561-223-9646 • www.FosterPalmBeach.org



Again Jesus said,
"Simon son of John, do you love me?"
He answered,
"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

— John 21:16, NIV

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Why be a foster parent?

It's an opportunity to
infuse values in children
and show them what
real love looks like.

Could you? Yes. **Will you?**

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Learn how to get involved at:

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561-223-9646



YOU
could be the
difference
between
their
success or
failure!

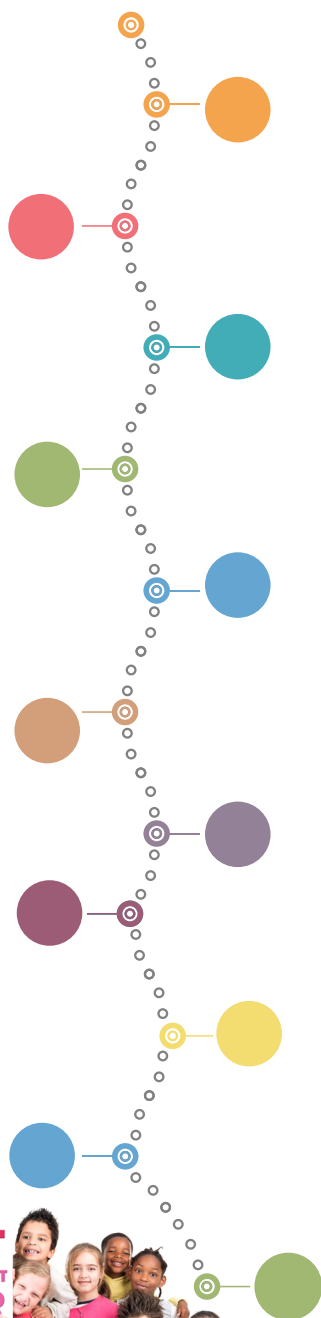




Make a difference for life, one child at a time!

It takes a community to raise a child

A Step-by-Step Guide to Foster Care Ministry



Month 0:

- Learn about the needs of local children in the foster care system
- Commit to being part of the solution
- Seek approval from your administrative council

Month 1:

- Week 1: Assign congregation rep to focus on your church's outreach
- Congregation Rep meets with PBCU rep to create your church's timeline
- Week 2: Add info to church website (stock info provided by PBCU with links)
- Introduce project to members (utilize video)
- Designate a monthly "Foster Care" Day (2nd Sunday, 3rd Saturday, etc.)
- Deploy bookmark prayer campaign
- Weeks 3-4: Recruit additional Foster Care team members

Month 2:

- Host Info Session (educational session about the need & how to get involved)
- Host "Heart Gallery" poster & prayer (intro to quarterly pray-for-a-child program)
- Start James 1:27 List

Month 3:

- Celebrate impact to date; members share their stories
- Recruit team to spearhead "wrap-around" services
- Ongoing pray-for-a-child program
- Begin monthly service provider video (highlight various agencies to assist)
- Begin monthly bulletin article

Ongoing: Monthly child prayer, agency videos, bulletin articles, & impact stories

Month 4:

- Host aged out youth or foster parent presentation
- Service provider fair (following presentation)
- Wraparound program continues & grows to assist those fostering

Month 5:

- New "Heart Gallery" Poster
- Host Info Session (orientation and classes if enough signups)

Month 6:

- Congregation coordinated community outreach with Home Kits – Yard signs, info cards, for members to use as talking points; ask key members to host "coffees"

Month 7:

- New bookmarks (semi-annual)
- Host a Guardian ad Litem Info Session (schedule onsite training if enough signups)
- Focus on a Kids Helping Kids (post flyers, make care packs, teach empathy)

Month 8:

- New "Heart Gallery" Poster
- Book reading: divide key members into groups; assign different book to each group

Month 9:

- Have book reading groups give short presentation on what they learned

Month 10:

- Strong focus on impact to date & enhancing/growing the Wraparound program
- Host a foster parent info session (orientation and classes if enough signups)

Month 11:

- New "Heart Gallery" Poster

Month 12:

- Celebrate the impact your church family has made & commit to continuing mission!



Palm Beach County Unites for Children
205 N. Dixie Hwy, Ste 2.2100 • West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561-223-9646 • www.PBCUnites.org

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

—James 1:27 (NIV)

Our Church's role in caring for orphan children

God has called the church to span the gap between His heart for orphaned and at-risk youth and the huge problem that exists today. The church is God's vehicle to reach the hurting and lost.

Today we embark on a mission to care for local children in need through prayer and sacrifice. As you listen to the sermon today, may the Holy Spirit stir in your heart the passion and direction of His plan for you.

Please consider these options

- ☐ **Foster** – Have A Home? Have A Heart? Change A Life! Learn about fostering and take the next step by scheduling an orientation or classes.
- ☐ **Adopt** - Every child needs a Forever Family! A place to call home for the holidays, a shoulder to cry on during the tough times, and a family to celebrate the good times in life!
- ☐ **Advocate** - Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Child Advocates represent the best interests of foster children in court making sure they don't get lost in an overburdened legal system. *Time Commitment = 10-15 hours a month, minimum 2 years*
- ☐ **Mentor** –20 children are waiting for a mentor in PBC. Statistics show that most foster children are behind grade level. *Time Commitment=1 hour a week, minimum 2 years*
- ☐ **Educate** – *Who Do You Know that We Should Know?* Reach out to your friends to share the need. Help us reach families able to foster by hosting an info session at your home, office, or civic group.
- ☐ **Wraparound** – Join a special team of volunteers willing to share their time and treasure with a family who made the commitment to Foster a Child. Common needs are babysitters (cleared), meal preparers, midnight formula shoppers, and more.

Everyone. Can. Do. Something!

Learn how at: <http://www.pbcunites.org/faith-based-advocacy.html>

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